

2/22/92

Rights/Groups push Amendment 2-like measures

From A1
rights for homosexuals."

That kind of thinking has anti-amendment groups organizing at unprecedented levels, too. "Groups across the nation are on red alert," said Scott Nagakawa, a Portland, Ore., man who began monitoring the religious right for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force several months ago. "In a weird sense, what happened in Colorado has helped," he said. "It's total irony because those groups want to stop us, and they've helped us work together at such a high level."

So far, ballot initiatives that would ban laws protecting gays from discrimination based on their sexual orientation have been filed in Florida and in 21 counties in Oregon. Within two weeks, a group behind a tri-state effort in the Pacific Northwest hopes to complete its final drafts for statewide initiatives in Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

Groups build on Colorado's amendment

Four other states — Arizona, California, Ohio and Michigan — have groups or individuals who have said they want to begin Colorado-style ballot initiatives. Leaders in six of those states said they are using the language in Amendment 2, as well as the campaign theme "no special rights," as their working models. In Maine, where a state lawmaker is working on a bill that would include sexual orientation in state civil rights law, a conservative Christian group has vowed a statewide referendum on the bill if the Legislature passes it.

"They have taken on the no-special-rights theme with fervor," said state Sen. Gerard Conley Jr., referring to the group opposing his bill, the Maine Christian Civic League. "They always used it, but since Amendment 2 passed in Colorado, they have really centered on that slogan," he said.

Amendment 2, which bans laws that protect gays, lesbians and bisexuals from discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation, won the approval of 53 percent of Colorado voters in November. Its author is the Colorado Springs-based Colorado for Family Values, an organization whose background is similar to many of the groups leading efforts in other states: a mix of

local residents relying on information and arguments shaped by national religious groups.

The Colorado group has ties with the influential Traditional Values Coalition, a conservative public policy group in Anaheim, Calif. The leader of that group, the Rev. Lou Sheldon, is a board member of the Colorado organization. The amendment's wording was shaped with the help of the National Legal Foundation, a Virginia-based group founded by evangelist Pat Robertson, who is no longer associated with the foundation.

No-special-rights theme finds backers

Yet, the Colorado effort has clearly been led by state residents, and the survival and success of groups in others states will depend on local leaders.

"It's a true political movement in the works," said Chip Berlet, an analyst for Political Research Associates, a Cambridge, Mass.-based research group that monitors the movements of the religious right. "What we are seeing is the meeting of grass-roots movement with national larger organizations. What happened in Colorado has had a clear influence in that."

So much so that the Traditional Values Coalition in California says it is targeting 30 states where it would like to start groups using the arguments and slogans honed in the Colorado campaign. Not all of those groups will push for state votes regarding gays legal status. In Minnesota, Traditional Values is trying to form a group to fight attempts to give gays protected status in the law. But it won't be able to start a Colorado-style measure because the state doesn't permit its constitution to be changed by direct vote.

The no-special-rights theme that Colorado for Family Values used as a campaign motto isn't new, but the leaders of the different state movements say the passage of Amendment 2 has given it proven political appeal. The phrase was popularized in a 1987 book, "Gays, AIDS and You" by Michael Schwartz and Enrique Rueda and underwritten by the Free Congress Foundation, a conservative public policy group. National conservative religious groups and leaders have promoted

the theme ever since.

"It's not a gimmick or empty slogan. It works because it's the truth," said Lon Mabon, head of the U.S. Citizens Alliance, organizer of the tri-state effort in the Pacific Northwest. "The militant homosexuals think it's some kind of deception, but it gets to the heart of the matter: that an unhealthy lifestyle, the way someone has sex, is not a legitimate reason to claim discrimination."

Amendment influences effort elsewhere

That Mabon is working on Amendment 2-style initiatives is proof of the Colorado measure's influence. Mabon wrote Oregon's failed Measure 9 — the 1992 ballot initiative that branded homosexuality along with sadism as "abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse."

The proposed measure for Oregon, Washington and Idaho would ban anti-discrimination ordinances and any affirmative-action programs based on sexual orientation — just as the Colorado measure does. It also would ban government funds that "promote homosexuality," according to a copy of an initiative filed in Gresham, Ore. Mabon said talking about homosexuality in schools is one of the ways "the government wrongfully uses our tax money to promote this lifestyle."

The difference between Measure 9 and Amendment 2, Mabon said, is that "we've cut the language about our opponents distorted as bigoted." But he added: "The intent is the same."

Said Bob Larimer, head of the Washington group: "Oregon's Measure 9 was the wake-up call. The Colorado amendment, and its language, is the kinder, gentler approach. In terms of spirit, there isn't much difference."

That's why opponents are organizing quickly, said Tom Page, an official with Hands Off Washington, the group leading the fight against Larimer's group. Page points to a recent meeting in the small town of Yakima, where 200 people showed up to learn how to fight the potential measure. "Colorado has shown us that the people can be fooled by this argument, and so we will

begin to educate people as fast as we can," he said.

Legality of amendment still a question

Despite its success at the polls, the legality of Amendment 2 is still up in the air. A lawsuit filed in Denver District Court challenges its constitutionality, and the judge scheduled to hear the suit has barred the amendment from becoming law until that question is resolved.

But Frank Meliti, head of Arizonans for Traditional Values, said the legal challenge doesn't concern him. "I have no doubt in my mind that Amendment 2 will survive," he said.

"The point is, we have to stop the unhealthy, immoral lifestyle that is being promoted by these militant homosexuals in our society. Colorado should be congratulated for standing up to that."

Meliti's fighting tone is echoed by many of the other people seeking Amendment 2-style measures for their own states. They say they are eager to jump into the incendiary debate that has plagued Colorado, now routinely called the "hate state," since the passage of Amendment 2.

"I would welcome the boycott of militant homosexuals and all the politically correct psychobabble going on in your state," said Martin, who recently said he will run for governor in Florida.

"The boycott could be good for Florida, where we have population overgrowth. And for health reasons, it may be good," he said. Martin said he was referring to gay men with AIDS not coming to Florida because of a boycott.

But the spread of Amendment 2-type measures will prove something else, said Jeff Peters, a spokesman for Floridians Respect Everyone's Equality, the group formed to fight Martin's plan.

"It proves the religious right will stop at nothing to promote their homophobic campaign," he said. "Anthony Martin is mocking the concerns by businesses and state leaders regarding the possible lost business this state may suffer. He cares little about the divisive fight this will cause in Florida just as it has in Colorado."

"Now, that is a militant agenda."

in a for a long, long time. "People still believed nuclear war was likely," said a former Defense Department official with close ties to FEMA. "People were not really thinking about hurricanes and earthquakes; they were thinking about war with the Soviet Union."

small kitchen and tables. ■ Three passenger vans, a crew cab pickup truck with mobile command post trailer, and a utility pickup truck.

Cox News Service

Capitol Hill has bias problem, women congressional aides say

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than half of women congressional aides say discrimination is a problem for female staffers who work on Capitol Hill, according to a Washington Post survey.

In the survey of 603 women congressional staffers, one out of nine reported that she had been sexually harassed by a member of Congress, The Post reported in Sunday's editions.

Many of those surveyed reported sexual oriented jokes aimed at women and said they were reluctant to report incidents for fear of retaliation.

As an example, one unidentified woman staffer was quoted as saying that a harried senator, searching for a surface to use for signing a document, placed it on the bosom of one of his female aides and signed it there.

The Post survey found that one in four had found sexual harassment a problem for female staffers on Capitol Hill while six in 10 said not being taken as seriously as men was a problem.

Nearly two out of three complained of unequal pay for equal work; overall, more than half of

those questioned said discrimination against women was a problem in Congress.

The Post said it decided to survey conditions facing women congressional workers in the wake of sexual har-

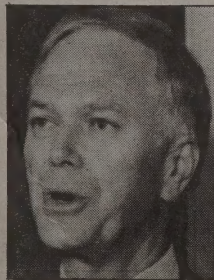
assment allegations against Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore. They are being investigated by the Senate Ethics Committee.

The Post's findings were in line with those of a study by the Congressional Research Service, an arm of Congress itself. That study found that women were paid about 80 percent of the salary of men in 1992, mainly because women were clustered in low-level jobs.

Even for women with major congressional staff posts, however, the study found that salaries were not as high as for men.

Despite the problems, however, there has been marked improvement for women who work in the halls of Congress.

While it was rare to find a female chief of staff two decades ago, one out of four congressional chiefs of staff today are women. And aides said that treatment improves as increasing numbers of women are elected to congressional seats.



Packwood: Being investigated for sexual harassment.

in their damaged homes after a tornado touched down in this town of 6,200, about 15 miles southwest of Knoxville, authorities said.

Officials put in effect a 9 p.m.-to-6 a.m. curfew. Police checkpoints were put up around the city to keep out the curious.

At least one person was killed there and 35 others hospitalized, said John Keese, spokesman for the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency in Nashville. A paramedic also reported treating about 60 people at a shelter.

Loudon County Sheriff Tim Guider said damage to the area was exten-

BRIEFING

Two charged in fatal carjacking: Two teenage brothers were charged Sunday in a fatal carjacking outside a Philadelphia church in which the robbers fled in the victim's car with his 5-month-old baby.

Robert Allen, 18, a college student from West Philadelphia, and his 16-year-old brother, whose name was not released, were charged with murder, kidnapping, theft, robbery and conspiracy, police said.

Detective Richard Zappile said the 16-year-old fired the shots that killed Yeong Ho Yu, 32, of Wilmington, Del., on Feb. 14.

The victim was shot three times in the chest outside Emmanuel Church. His wife had gone inside the church, but he stayed in the car with their sleeping son.

After the shooting, the carjackers drove off with the infant inside, later dropping the baby off unharmed, police said.

Inmates go on rampage at county jail: Inmates at the Bristol County jail in New Bedford, Mass., went on a rampage Sunday, setting a fire that badly damaged the 165-year-old lockup. At least nine people were hurt.

The disturbance began shortly before noon and lasted about two hours before police in riot gear regained control.

Authorities said one inmate and seven law officers were treated for injuries. No one was hurt seriously, said Sheriff David Nelson. One firefighter was hospitalized for smoke inhalation.

The jail was so badly damaged that its 285 prisoners had to be transferred to other facilities, and authori-



A gasoline station lies in ruins in Lenoir City, Tenn., after a tornado slashed through the town Sunday. Six customers and an employee who took cover in the gas station's back room escaped injury.

sive.

The tornado hit at 5:25 p.m., cutting a northwest-to-southeast path through town and coming close to the downtown area, Guider said.

Another tornado touched down in

Powell, just west of Knoxville; no injuries were reported.

Earlier, a tornado touched down in Cedartown, Ga., causing at least one death and several injuries, authorities said.

ties said they weren't sure whether it could be reopened.

Nelson said the inmates were apparently angry over a search of cells Friday during which guards confiscated homemade knives, flammable materials and makeshift speakers the prisoners had used to communicate with each other from their cells.

Boy invited to inaugural festivities dies: Joshua Cox, a handicapped boy who attended the presidential inauguration ceremonies as a guest of Vice President Al Gore's wife, Tipper, has died from complications of pneumonia. He was 12.

Joshua of Milan Township died Saturday at Akron Children's Hospital in Ohio, said his father, Dean. The boy had been in a coma for eight days.

Joshua suffered from a severe form of mental retardation and cerebral palsy caused by a lack of oxygen at birth. He couldn't walk or talk, and could hear only with hearing aids.

The Coxes became friends with Tipper Gore when she visited the hospital during a campaign stop last summer. The family accepted an invitation to the inaugural ceremonies last month in Washington as one of 50 "Faces of Hope."

The Coxes took part in most of the week's activities, but Joshua missed the Faces of Hope luncheon when he came down with a low-grade form of pneumonia. Joshua was able to attend the Inaugural Ball, however.

Gazette Telegraph news services

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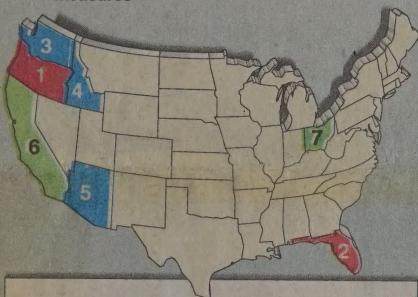
Battle over gay rights engulfing other states

Gazette Telegraph

The spread of Amendment 2

Since the passage of Amendment 2 in Colorado, groups in several other states are considering similar initiatives restricting homosexual rights.

- States where such initiatives have been filed
- States where groups are working on measures similar to Amendment 2
- States where groups would like to have such measures



1 OREGON: The No Special Rights Committee of the Oregon Citizens Alliance has filed initiatives in 21 counties. The initiatives would ban laws that protect gays from discrimination based on their sexual orientation; it also says government funds cannot be used to promote homosexuality.

2 FLORIDA: The Christian Action Council, headed by Republican gubernatorial candidate Anthony Martin of Palm Beach, wants to ban any laws that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.

3 4 WASHINGTON, IDAHO: U.S. Citizens Alliance hopes to have a draft proposal for Washington, Idaho, and Oregon within two weeks. It also could contain some sort of ban on homosexuals in educational facilities.

5 ARIZONA: Arizonans for Traditional Values, headed by Frank Meliti in Phoenix, hopes to have a proposal within two months. It also could contain language about educational facilities.

6 CALIFORNIA: The Traditional Values Coalition of Anaheim, Calif., led by Rev. Lou Sheldon, a board member of Colorado for Family Values, says it is targeting 30 states for Amendment 2-like initiatives, including its home state.

7 OHIO: The Ohio Pro-Family Forum in Cincinnati, a coalition of several dozen groups, seeks a Colorado-style initiative.

Groups view Amendment 2 as blueprint

By **Louis Aguilar**
Gazette Telegraph

The bitter battle over Amendment 2 in Colorado has done little to deter groups in several states from embracing the rallying call of no "special rights" for gays.

Efforts to push for similar laws are advancing in virtually every region of the nation and seem likely to ensure that bruising interstate fights — with charges of gay bigotry and threats of boycott — will go on for at least the next two years.

"Colorado's victory has had a very positive effect. It has given the rest of the country a winning blueprint," said Anthony Martin, the Palm Beach, Fla., man leading an effort to put a proposal on that state's 1994 general election ballot.

The boycott of Colorado that surfaced shortly after the November election has spurred cancellations in the convention and tourism industry that has cost the state economy millions of dollars. That, in part, has prompted a Colorado Springs lawyer to write a ballot initiative that would override Amendment 2 by banning special rights for gays but prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment and public facilities.

"The politically correct backlash going on in Colorado is only encouraging many of us," Martin said. "Your state should thank us, for soon we will show that voters across America feel the way they do: no special

See **RIGHTS/A3**

counting

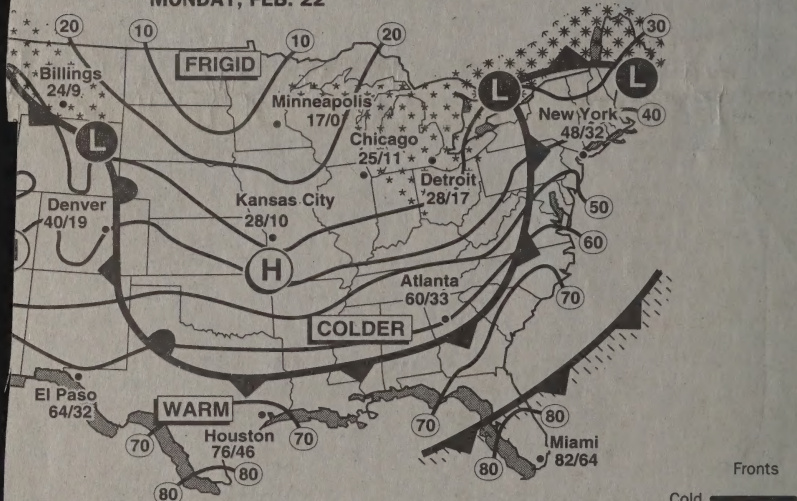
ment celebrates her 118th birthday Sunday at a retirement home in France. Calment, who is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest living person whose age can be reliably authenticated, as a young girl she met the painter Vincent Van Gogh. Doctors say her memory and sense of humor remain keen, and her sudden urge during her party to sing verses of "Isabelle" and "Marilyn."

call themselves stars today! Now everyone is so grand and posh. It's all about money, or bedroom activity — which I find a bore, frankly — or murder and mayhem. It drives me mad! They have no Bogies, Tracys, Cagneys, Coopers! Hank Fondas, Jimmy Stewarts? Forget it! Over!"

Lauren Bacall,
in *Entertainment Weekly*

TODAY'S ACCU-WEATHER® FORECAST

MONDAY, FEB. 22



positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature lines are high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

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Fronts
Cold
Warm
Stationary

LEGEND: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

City	Yest.	Today	Tues.	Wed.
Jackson, MS	80 60 t	63 31 pc	61 36 pc	58 44 pc
Jacksonville, FL	72 44 c	70 42 sh	64 40 pc	62 45 s
Kansas City, KS	32 28 sh	28 10 c	39 15 pc	32 18 c
Las Vegas, NV	57 38 s	60 44 c	61 42 sh	54 40 pc
Little Rock, AR	73 41 s	53 28 pc	55 31 pc	43 38 pc
Los Angeles, CA	60 40 pc	62 52 r	62 48 sh	64 49 pc
Louisville, KY	61 35 r	34 22 c	39 10 c	34 15 pc
Marquette, MI	17 1 sf	20 3 sf	11 -8 sf	9 -3 sf
Memphis, TN	74 44 pc	52 29 pc	53 27 pc	44 37 s
Miami, FL	79 65 pc	82 64 pc	75 62 pc	78 65 pc
Milwaukee, WI	28 27 sn	25 12 sf	24 5 sf	19 13 s
Minneapolis, MN	26 20 sn	17 0 sf	17 -5 pc	11 1 pc
Mobile, AL	73 60 c	64 38 sh	67 41 pc	60 46 pc
Nashville, TN	73 42 t	47 25 pc	49 16 pc	41 21 s
New Orleans, LA	76 62 pc	68 44 c	67 44 pc	63 48 pc

City	Yest.	Today	Tues.	Wed.
Sioux Falls, SD	19 17 sn	17 -1 c	21 -8 pc	12 -5 pc
Spokane, WA	31 16 sn	35 22 c	36 17 c	31 16 c
Tampa, FL	75 47 pc	75 53 sh	69 49 pc	69 53 s
Topeka, KS	33 29 c	31 14 c	42 14 c	34 21 c
Tucson, AZ	64 39 pc	66 39 pc	70 42 c	57 36 pc
Tulsa, OK	46 37 c	45 28 pc	54 30 pc	46 37 c
Washington, DC	35 30 sn	58 30 c	45 20 pc	33 19 pc
Wichita, KS	35 29 pc	39 22 pc	48 19 c	39 21 sn
Wilmington, DE	33 25 sn	58 28 c	40 21 pc	32 17 pc

CANADA

City	Yest.	Today	Tues.	Wed.
Calgary, Alb.	3 -9 sn	9 -7 c	6 -5 pc	20 3 pc
Edmonton, Alb.	6 -6 sn	3 -14 pc	1 -11 pc	15 -1 pc
Montreal, Que.	2 -11 s	21 10 sn	21 2 c	18 -9 sf
Ottawa, Ont.	4 -13 pc	26 10 sn	21 2 sf	18 -9 c
Toronto, Ont.	24 9 sn	33 17 sf	24 12 sf	27 11 sf